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April 4, 2012

Dear Local Police Department:

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is conducting a new survey called the **National Food Study**. The USDA has contracted Mathematica Policy Research to design and conduct this study. Households all across America will tell us important facts about the food they obtain to feed their families. The National Food Study will answer some basic questions about U.S. households:

- How much do they spend on food for their family?
- How much food comes from supermarkets? Restaurants? School cafeterias? Et cetera.
- How does access to food and retailer choice affect dietary quality?

This information will help USDA improve programs and will help assure that all residents of the United States have access to a healthy diet at affordable prices.

Your county has been selected to be part of the National Food Study. From mid-April through October 2012 we will have several professional interviewers in the county. They will visit randomly selected addresses and screen households to determine their eligibility for the study. We expect to interview about 400 households during this time period, and invite about 100 eligible households in your area to participate in the study. If they chose to participate they will be asked to complete interviews and record information about the foods they obtain during a one-week period.

We have enclosed a study flyer for you to review and post in a public area so individuals in your organization will know about the study. To learn more about the study, see the enclosed brochure, visit our website at [www.usdafoodstudy.org](http://www.usdafoodstudy.org), or call our toll-free number at 866-275-8659.

Thanks in advance for your cooperation and support of the National Food Study!

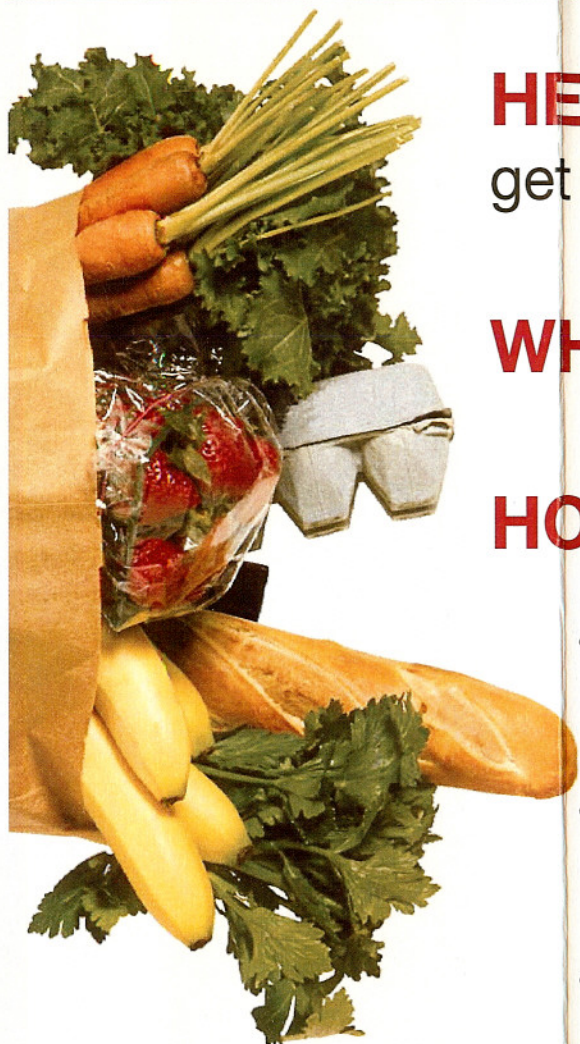
Sincerely,



Dr. Nancy Cole  
Project Director, National Food Study



# THE NATIONAL FOOD STUDY



**HELP US UNDERSTAND...** Where do households get food? What do they buy? How much do they spend?

**WHEN?** One week during April - October, 2012

## **HOW TO TAKE PART...**

- Interviewers will visit randomly-selected addresses in your area
- An interviewer will see if your household is eligible to participate
- Your household will report the foods you buy for 7 days and complete 2 interviews

The National Food Study is sponsored by the United States Department of Agriculture  
For more information, go to [www.usdafoodstudy.org](http://www.usdafoodstudy.org) or call 1-866-275-8659